



Connecticut Chapter
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
P. O. Box 93
Rockfall, CT 06481
Phone: 860-508-4896
Fax: 860-788-2331

www.conn-nahro.org

February 25, 2014 Legislative Committee on Aging

Written Testimony submitted by

John Rumberger, Vice President of Housing and Legislation

On behalf of the membership of Conn-NAHRO

Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; its membership is comprised of Public Housing Authorities and other individuals and organizations involved in affordable housing.

Senator Ayala and Representative Serra and members of the Aging Committee:

My name is John Rumberger; I am the Vice President of Housing and Legislation for Conn-NAHRO. I am also the Facilities Manager of the Middletown Housing Authority. We at CONN-NAHRO appreciate and applaud your efforts to conduct a survey regarding the **Raised Senate Bill No. 175, 'AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS IN PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY'**, to ensure the health and safety of elderly persons in state-financed housing developments in the event of electrical power outages.

As you may recall, a year ago this date my fellow CONN-NAHRO members submitted written testimony and you heard oral testimony from our Executive Director regarding **Raised Senate Bill No. 79, "AN ACT REQUIRING ELECTRICAL POWER GENERATORS AT STATE-ASSISTED SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS"**. This gave practitioners of State Assisted Senior Housing cause for great concern of such an effort and the many obstacles that inhibit its success; including scope of implementation, cost of installation and the long term maintenance and up keep of this equipment at our properties.

Throughout the State Portfolio, Housing Authorities are in a struggle for survival. The question is not whether generators can benefit our resident's, however; the question is

can we survive yet another potentially unfunded mandate. Each time our industry is exposed to increased costs our SUSTAINABILITY is at stake. Not just now but for the future and for our future residents.

In response to the 2014 **Raised Senate Bill No. 175**, CONN-NAHRO is asking that we be included in the study process and offer our perspective on this potential endeavor. We would be happy to make ourselves available to the staff at the Department of Housing. We currently have a Collaborative Working Group with the Department of Housing that works closely with DOH staff regarding housing issues and can certainly add this to the list.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that CONN-NAHRO appreciates the approach to conduct a survey and respectfully ask that we be a part of the study process.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.